

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

*Page 5, replace the heading at line 18 with the following amended heading:*

**--DESCRIPTION BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--**

*Page 5, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:*

--The present invention relates to water-in-oil microemulsions containing a retinoid and a phospholipid emulsifier as an active ingredient. The phospholipid emulsifier is selected from soy phosphatidylcholine and soy lecithin.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 depicts the viscosity trend of gel microemulsions based on isopropyl palmitate (IPP) at an active ingredient (fenretinide) concentration of 0.05% w/w, depending on the water content ([W]/[lec] equal to 1, 2 and 3).

Figure 2 shows the viscosity trend of gel microemulsions based on isopropyl palmitate (IPP) which have the same ratio [W]/[lec] (= 3) and concentration as the drug fenretinide (0.05%), but a different qualitative/quantitative composition, and contain hyaluronic acid sodium salt.

Figure 3 shows the viscosity trend of the microemulsion designated as prototype IPP3C', according to the fenretinide concentration (4HPR).

Figure 4 shows the diffusion or permeation kinetics of fenretinide (absorption rate) in gel microemulsions IPP3C and

IPP3C' (without hyaluronic acid sodium salt, Hyalastine fraction) by comparison with fenretinide in conventional formulations. The angular coefficients of the lines obtained represent the values of diffusion coefficient " $J_n$ ".

Figure 5 shows the diffusion or permeation kinetics of fenretinide (absorption rate) in the same gel microemulsions containing hyaluronic acid sodium salt (Hyalastine fraction) by comparison with fenretinide in conventional formulations.

Figure 6 shows the diffusion or permeation kinetics of fenretinide (absorption rate) in gel microemulsions IPP3C and IPP3C' with or without hyaluronic acid sodium salt (Hyalastine fraction).--